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### Washington Square House Tour in Old Salem, Massachusetts

Women's Friend Society

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# WASHINGTON SQUARE HOUSE TOUR IN

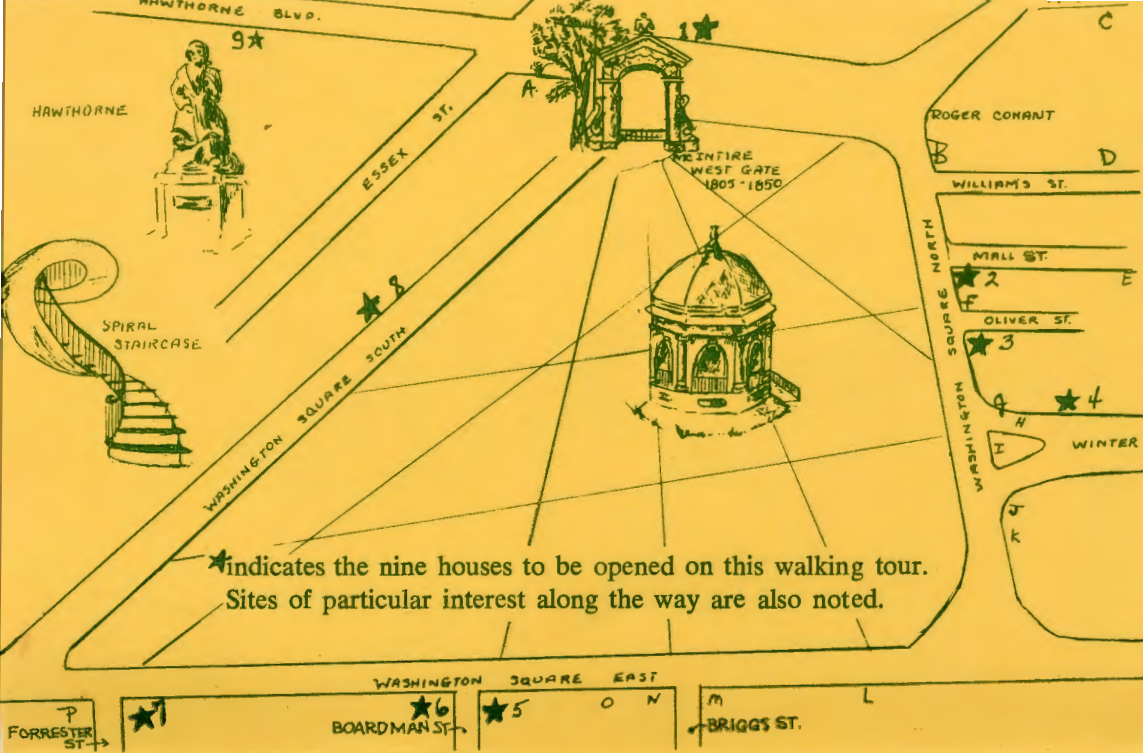
OLD SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

SUNDAY  
JUNE 27, 1971  
10 A.M. TO 5 P.M.

*Sponsored By Women's Friend Society*



OLD WEST GATE — 1805-1850



## SALEM COMMON

In 1714, it was voted that the Common area should be forever kept as a Training Field.

In 1801, Elias Haskett Derby raised money to build a wooden fence around the Common with four imposing gates. In 1802, the common area was levelled, and by a vote of the selectmen, the name was changed to Washington Square.

In 1805, the West Gate was carved by Samuel McIntire, Salem's famous architect, wood carver, and designer. In 1817, a wooden rail was erected and it was replaced by an iron fence in 1850.

Much of the beauty of Washington Square is provided by the houses surrounding the common which were built during Salem's fabulous era of its shipping industry. They give it elegance and they give it scale.



# ANDREW- SAFFORD HOUSE

13 Washington Sq. W.

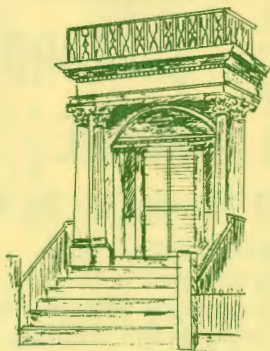
This large brick house, with attached stable behind a brick wall which follows the line of Brown Street as it curves around into Washington Square, is one of the few town houses surviving unaltered to this day. It was built in 1818 for John Andrew who made his fortune trading in furs with Russia. Mr. Andrew's pride and joy were the four fluted wooden columns on the south side. The interior moldings and woodwork of the house are Federal in concept and serenely beautiful in execution.

The Safford family lived here from the 1870's until the house was purchased by the Essex Institute in 1947. Safford House is now the residence of the Director of the Essex Institute, David B. Little and his family.

## SITES:

- a. 18 Washington Square West — site of home of Colonel John Higginson in 1673. Later, the Franklin Building, which Capt. Thomas Perkins willed to the Salem Marine Society in 1833, was designed by Samuel McIntire. In 1925, the present Hawthorne Hotel was built. Like the Franklin Building, the hotel has carried on the tradition by allocating space on its top floor for the Salem Marine Society.
- b. ROGER CONANT statue — In 1626, Roger Conant and his small group of associates came to the "pleasant and fruitful neck of land called Naumkeag". The name of this settlement was changed in 1629 to Salem. Roger Conant, Jr. was the first white child to be born in Salem.
- c. BIRTHPLACE OF NATHANIEL BOWDITCH — at end of Kimball Court. Bowditch was the Father of Navigation and author of 'The American Practical Navigator', still a standard text and second largest seller after the Bible.
- d. RUINS OF SECOND UNITARIAN CHURCH building erected in 1846 and burned in 1969.
- e. RESIDENCE OF NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE — 14 Mall Street. While living there 1847-1850, Salem's outstanding man of letters wrote his immortal 'Scarlet Letter'.





## JOHN FORRESTER HOUSE

### 29 Washington Square North

Another Federal style house built in 1818 by John Forrester, son of Captain Simon Forrester, one of Salem's most successful merchants. Both John Forrester and his brother-in-law John Andrew vied with each other to build the more beautiful mansion. The front portico of this house contains fine Corinthian columns. The Forresters remained in this house until 1834. From 1834-1892, Colonel George Peabody, son of Captain Joseph Peabody, lived in the house where he entertained Longfellow, Agassiz and Lowell, as well as General George B. McClellan of Civil War fame.

In 1895 it became the Salem Club, a resident and dining club for Salem Gentlemen.

In 1927, this house became the property and location of the Bertram Home for Aged Men. The Home was established in 1877 and endowed by Captain John Bertram. It was originally situated on Derby Street, at the corner of Turner.

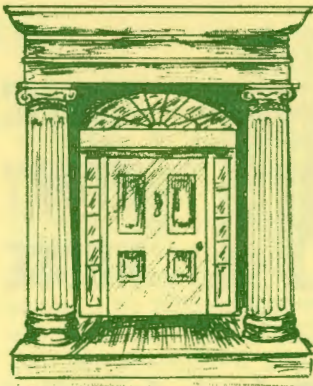
View Garden from Mall Street.

### SITE:

f. 31 Washington Square North:

This federal house was built by Stephen White in 1811. It was the home of John Whitingham Rogers, merchant 1831-1844 and the home of Thomas Perkins Pingree, merchant 1844-1858. It was occupied by the Lord family from 1858 until 1948. Last owners to live there were George Robert Lord and his sister Elizabeth.

President James Monroe attended a ball here in 1817 and Statesman Daniel Webster stayed here in 1830. His son Colonel D. Fletcher Webster married a daughter of the builder Stephen White. Beyond the old cobblestone yard behind the main house stands an interesting chaise or carriage house with a large clock.



## **SILSBEE- CLARK HOUSE**

### **33 Washington Square North (formerly known as 2 Oliver Street)**

This house was built in 1811 by Joseph White, the brother of Stephen. It was purchased by William Silsbee in 1831 and occupied by his son Benjamin Hodges Silsbee and other members of the Silsbee family until 1880.

In 1880 the house was selected as a Parsonage for the Tabernacle Church. The Reverend Dr. DeWitt S. Clark was the first pastor to reside here. In 1916 he was succeeded by Reverend Oliver Hart Bronson, and then by the Reverend William H. Spence. In 1920, DeWitt S. Clark, M.D., son of Reverend Dr. Clark bought the house and it remained in the Clark family until 1969.

The house was acquired in that year by Mr. & Mrs. Ralph H. Doering, Jr. the present owners and occupants.

### **SITE:**

#### **g. 35 Washington Square North:**

Land for present house acquired in 1819 by Mrs. Joseph White. It was in the Silsbee family from 1831 until 1921. In 1851 it was occupied by Hannah Hodges, sister-in-law of William Silsbee.

Note Porch with "chaste Ionic Columns". Formerly on this site was the house in which Ann Pudeator, accused of witchcraft, was living when she was taken to be executed in 1692.



# JUSTICE STORY HOUSE

## 26 Winter St., with facade facing Common

Large Federal House built in 1811 as the home for the eminent Jurist Joseph Story and his family. On the west side of the land, the Judge maintained his law offices.

Born in Marblehead in 1779, Judge Joseph Story was the son of Dr. Elisha Story, one of the 'Sons of Liberty' who participated in the Boston Tea Party. Dr. Story also served as a surgeon in General Washington's army.

Joseph Story was a graduate of Harvard College and studied law in Salem. He served in the U.S. Congress in 1805, and was elected Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1811. During that same year, at the age of 32, he was appointed Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court by President James Madison, and served in this capacity until his death in 1845. Justice Story was the Founder of Harvard Law School and became its first 'Dane Professor of Law'. He was a close friend and associate of Chief Justice Marshall.

In 1817 Justice Story gave a Reception for President James Monroe in his beautiful home. In 1824, The Marquis de Lafayette was entertained by Judge Story at 26 Winter Street on the evening of Aug. 31. Here he stood on the front doorstep with his host and shook hands with many admirers who passed through the grounds from Winter to Oliver Street.

This house was also the birthplace of Judge Story's son William Wetmore Story, noted author and sculptor whose statue of his Father is at Harvard Law School.

Attorney & Mrs. John W. Ward are the present owners and occupants.

Note: Three of Justice Story's sisters married John Forrester, Stephen and Joseph White respectively.



## SITES:

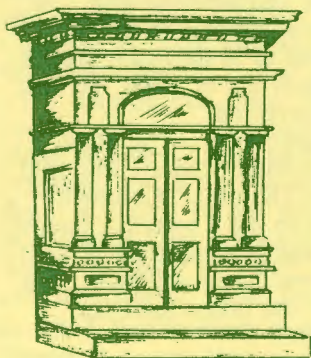
- h. Of historical significance, although unseen to the eye, is an Underground Passage over which one crosses to the opposite corner. This passage was used for Slave traffic in the mid 1800's.
- i. Civil War memorial separates the entrance to Winter Street across from the Common.
- j. 39 Washington Square North — land acquired by William Roberts in 1825. Roberts was the master mason who built the house and then conveyed it to Stephen W. Shepard in 1830. From 1837-1847 it was owned by Nehemiah Brown and his wife. In 1847 it was conveyed to Michael Shepard, and a month later the house was acquired by Francis Brown, then Mariner and later Sea Captain. It remained in Captain Brown's family until 1944 when it was purchased from the Captain's grandson Francis Brown by Martin T. Field whose daughter retained ownership until 1967.

This house is part Federal with the flavor of Greek Revival with its recessed doorways, long french windows and wrought iron balconies. The original intent was to build Row houses to extend to Washington Square East, formerly Pleasant Street. Only the first two houses were constructed.

- k. 41 Washington Square North — adjacent house also built by William Roberts who sold it in 1830 to Larkin Thorndike, Counsellor. This house remained in the Thorndike family until 1870 when it was purchased by Willard H. and Hannah Brown. Their daughter, Miss Sarah Ellen lived in the house until her passing in the 1920's.
- l. 96 Washington Square East — white wooden house built in 1832 by Nathaniel Silsbee, Jr., an early Mayor of Salem.
- m. 94 Washington Square East — home of United States Senator Nathaniel Silsbee, Ship-Master for the Derbys and later owner of many ships himself. Senator Silsbee was born in 1773 and was the brother of William Silsbee. His house was built in 1818 in Italianate style with a dream of having a larger house than either Andrew's or Forrester's. Silsbee went into politics with Daniel Webster who was a frequent visitor to this house. President Monroe and Henry Clay were other notable visitors.  
Property of Knights of Columbus since 1907.



- n. 92 Washington Square East — Jabez Baldwin House built in 1808 on site of Thomas Briggs House and Ropewalks which ran all the way to water at Shallop's Cove, now named Collins Cove. Baldwin was a successful watchmaker and jeweler and maintained a jewelry business in Salem. He was also a member of the firm of Baldwin & Jones of which Shreve, Crump and Low is a successor. Fiske Kimball described this house as designed by Samuel McIntire with McIntire's son doing most of the interior woodwork. In 1881, this house was willed by Baldwin's daughter to her cousin Dr. Jabez B. Lyman, nephew of Jabez Baldwin. It remained in the Lyman family until 1920.
- o. 84 Washington Square East — Colonial Revival house built in 1900 by Dr. Hardy Phippen. Site of Joseph Vincent's home and ropewalks.



## **BOARDMAN HOUSE**

### **82 Washington Square East**

Captain Francis Boardman began this house in 1782 and completed it in 1789. House worked on by McIntire Brothers.

In 1789, when passing through Salem, President George Washington remarked on the architectural beauty and perfect symmetry of this house.

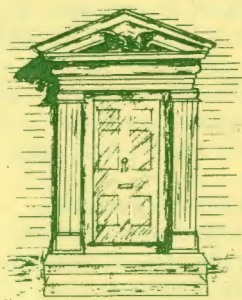
Dr. Bently writes of the Housewarming there in 1789, and later of balls and other lavish entertainment that took place.

When Master of a Privateer, Boardman bought the land where this house stands from the Hodges family. He married Mary Hodges and built this elegant house. In Captain Boardman's Log books (at Peabody Museum) we read that he was captured during the Revolution and escaped from a British ship, swimming through crocodile infested waters to the Carolina shore, whence he walked back to Salem, "a brave man full of public spirit and fond of show".

Following Captain Boardman's death at Port au Prince at 44 years, his widow and family continued to live in the house. Nathaniel Bowditch married his daughter Elizabeth in 1796 and they lived there for a short time. Another daughter Sarah, married Zachariah F. Silsbee, successful ship owner and merchant. Zachariah and his family lived in the house until 1874.

At one time Mrs. Abigail Rogers kept a Dames School here for Young Ladies.

Present owners, Mr. & Mrs. William J. Welch.



## **HOSMER- TOWNSEND- WATERS HOUSE**

### **80 Washington Square East**

Erected in 1795 and designed by Samuel McIntire for Captain Joseph Hosmer. This house is a rare example of the square dwelling with its hip roof rising to a single great chimney in exact center.

The house was later occupied by the Penn-Townsend family whose daughter Eliza married Joseph G. Waters and their son Henry FitzGilbert Waters, noted geneologist also lived there.

Noteworthy is the fine interior woodwork, and also its wisteria-clad enclosed side porch, as well as six double-paned solid sashes. Note the elaborate fireplace carved by Samuel McIntire in the northwest parlor with its lovely mantle displaying the American eagle carved in relief in its central panel.

Quaint Garden to be visited.

Mrs. Charles S. Erskine, present owner and occupant.



# IVES-WEBB- WHIPPLE HOUSE

**corner of Washington Sq. and Forrester St.**

Captain Benjamin Ives acquired the land in 1720. In 1767 it was conveyed by the widow of John Ives (son of Benjamin) to Captain Samuel Webb. Following Webb's death in 1780, his widow continued to live there until 1808. During this time she had a 'Penny Shop' in the northwestern part of the house. This house remained in the Webb family until 1879 when it was sold to Stephen Whipple by Mary Ellen Briggs, great-granddaughter of Captain Samuel Webb and daughter of Capt. James B. Briggs.

Stephen Whipple was a direct descendent of Matthew Whipple who settled in Ipswich in 1638. He pioneered in importing gum copal from Africa which was used in making varnishes and lacquers for decoration of cabins on ships. Note the original Franklin fireplace, bull's eye glass, and period furniture.

Currently owned by Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Whipple Maloon, and occupied by members of the Whipple family, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Maloon and Mrs. Charles W. Lamson.

## SITE:

P. Crowninshield-Devereaux Waters House — 74  
Washington Square East: Authentic Samuel McIntire House, built in 1805.



# PERKINS HOUSE

**38 Washington Square South**

Built by Joshua Oakes, Ship Joiner, in 1810.

A circular staircase to third floor graces this one-room deep house displaying McIntire influence in the woodwork. A small corner Mantle and old Franklin fireplace should be noted, and also the charming Canton China. This house has been in the family of its present owner Mrs. William Russell Burns, nee Perkins, since 1892.





# EMMERTON HOUSE

12 Hawthorne Boulevard —

## **headquarters of the Woman's Friend Society, sponsor of this benefit.**

In 1811 Joseph Fenno completed two separate adjacent houses — now One House with its northern and southern parts.

The northern half of the house was conveyed to John Fenno in 1814. In 1832 it passed hands to Aaron Perkins and in that same year it was conveyed to Ebenezer Lakeman. In 1879 it was sold to Captain John Bertram who immediately deeded it, in trust, to his daughter Jennie Bertram Emmerton. In 1884, she in turn deeded it to the Woman's Friend Society.

The southern half of this house was conveyed in 1812 to Joseph W. Peabody. In 1851, it was owned by George West, and later by William O'Donnell until it was purchased from Mrs. William O'Donnell in 1889 by the Woman's Friend Society. Subsequently, both halves were opened up into One House.

This residence is one of the more charming three story Salem style brick houses to be seen just off the Common. It boasts two beautiful carved mantles and a 'hung' front staircase from the first to third floor — all attributed to Samuel McIntire. (the mantle in the southern part of the double living room was moved from 2 Chestnut Street, while the mantle in the northern part of this living room was there originally).

The house is additionally interesting for its comfortable adaptation as an unusually attractive and inexpensive home for business women and students, a project begun by a group of Salem women, members of the Woman's Friend Society. A number of other projects were also initiated of which two in particular remain and are stressed today. First is the Residence for business women and students, and the other is the continuing sponsorship of the Salem Visiting Nurse Service, the purpose of this Benefit.



## **'RETREAT'**

exercises (annual military drill) will be held on Common late afternoon with 26th Division Band from Boston.



Plaque of George Washington  
Carved by Samuel McIntire

## **REFRESHMENTS**

with old Salem recipes will be served at Emmerton House throughout the Tour.

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Rest Rooms will be available  
at the Hawthorne Hotel.

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Massachusetts Bay United Fund  
has approved this Benefit for the  
Salem Visiting Nurse Service